



Fact Sheet:

Alcohol Use



Use Prevalence in California

- It is estimated that over half of all Californians over 12 years old (14.6 million) used alcohol in the past month.

(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, State Estimates of Substance Use 2004-2005, National Survey on Drug Use and Health)

- About 20% of all adults in California, (5.8 million) are binge drinkers (men who drank five or more drinks, or women who drank four or more drinks in a row at least once during the past month). Over 2.2 million other Californians also met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse.

(Ibid)

- Among middle and high school students, 12% of 7th graders, 23.8% of 9th graders, and 35.8% of 11th graders had used alcohol in the past 30 days, which represent notable declines in the past five years.

Eleventh Biennial California Student Survey 2005-06)

- Binge drinking was unchanged since FY 03/04 for 7th graders (5%) and 9th graders (12%), and declined 2% in 11th graders to 21%. Binge drinking was reported by almost half of 9th grade drinkers and 2/3 of 11th grade drinkers. About half of 11th grade binge drinkers (1/3 of all 11th grade drinkers) binged weekly.

(Eleventh Biennial California Student Survey 2005-06)

- Two or more alcohol dependency symptoms were reported by 5% of

9th graders and 13% of 11th graders. Further, 19.8% of 9th graders and 29.6% of 11th graders had either driven while drinking or ridden with someone who was drinking. (Ibid)

Cost

- There were 3,691 alcohol-related deaths in California in 2004.

(California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2006)

- In 2005, drunk driving was the cause of 1,387 fatal and 20,581 injury traffic accidents in California.

➤ 1,574 people died.

➤ 30,810 people were injured.

(California Highway Patrol, 2005 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions)

- The California Attorney General's Criminal Justice Statistics Center reports that in 2005, there were 6,030 felony drunk driving arrests. There were also 176,384 arrests for misdemeanor drunk driving, 96,801 arrests for misdemeanor public drunkenness, and 21,554 arrests for misdemeanor liquor law offenses.

- There were 42,633 admissions for alcohol abuse to publicly monitored treatment primarily in 2006/07, which accounted for 19.7% of all treatment admissions:

➤ 67.4 percent were for males

➤ 32.5 percent were for females

➤ 52.3 percent were 31-50 years old

(ADP CalOMS data FY 2006-2007)